

Testimony to the respected members of the Environment Committee re: H.B. 6263 re: Ten Mill Land:

Can you imagine committing to something for 100 years? Yet, in the interest of forest preservation called for by the Federal government, that's exactly what our father Louis Chatey was willing to do when he signed up forest land on our Ashford property close to 50 years ago under the Ten Mill program. As a soil scientist and a naturalist, he valued the woods, and recognized the need to preserve it.

We encourage the legislature to reward those property owners who committed 100 years of forest preservation with a reasonable 50-year adjustment on the tax rate. We support the proposal to adjust the tax rate on our 10 mill acreage to the recommended value as if it were classified under PA490.

It will be another 50 years before our acreage is finished with its 10 mill commitment. Our children will be 65 and 69 years old—essentially three generations will have managed and tended our little corner of Connecticut without developing it. We believe that commitment is worth something to our community and our state.

According to a story in Sunday's *Hartford Courant*., the U.S. Forest Service estimates that New England could lose as much as 63% of its land to development in the next 20 years. Any programs that encourage landowners to maintain forestry, farmland and open space should be supported.

Thank you,

Margaret and Louis Chatey
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